

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

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February 16, 1994

TO: All County Welfare Directors
All County Administrative Officers
All County Medi-Cal Program Specialists/Liaisons
All County Outstationed Eligibility Worker Coordinators

Letter No.: 94-23

OUTSTATIONING OF ELIGIBILITY WORKERS

Ref.: ACWDL No.'s: 89-114, 91-25, 91-108, 92-16, 93-18

This letter is to provide information concerning counties' petitions for outstationing of eligibility workers (EWs) for Fiscal Year (FY) 1994-95. Enclosed with this letter are forms which must be completed and returned to the Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch no later than March 21, 1994.

OBRA '90 Outstationing

It is mandatory that county welfare departments outstation EWs at Disproportionate Share Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), unless it can be demonstrated that it is administratively not feasible to do so.

Enclosed with this letter is a current list of FQHCs, Disproportionate Share Hospitals and Look Alike Clinics. Counties must evaluate the feasibility of placing an outstationed worker at these clinics. When submitting petitions, please submit either Petition "A" or Petition "B" to indicate whether an EW must be outstationed.¹

Perinatal Outstationing

We do not anticipate any increase in the available funding for Perinatal outstationing in FY 94-95. Therefore, we are again requesting counties to reevaluate their Perinatal outstationing program to assure that resources are being utilized appropriately (i.e., applications are primarily being processing for pregnant women and the number of applications supports the need for an outstationed worker).

Counties may modify their perinatal outstationing program (change the number of EW days, hours, and discontinue or add sites) within their existing allocation if there is justification for such modification. Such justification might include, but is not limited to, such factors as: increase or decrease in projected number of applications. When adding sites, counties should assure the projected site meets the original intent of the Perinatal outstationing program; that is, placement of an outstationed worker will result in pregnant women having their eligibility determination completed quickly which will result in improved and early access to prenatal services. To request continued funding for perinatal outstationing, counties should complete "Petition C" enclosed.

1. The petitions and other pertinent forms were sent to county directors only. If you would like to receive a copy of FQHC, report forms or petition forms, please contact Kveta Simon.

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We are aware that counties are contacted directly by clinics not currently in the outstationing program and which provide services to a high volume of pregnant women who are potential Medi-Cal beneficiaries. If these clinics express an interest in having an outstationed worker, and the counties feel there is a compelling reason for placing an outstationed worker at these additional sites, they should complete Petition D enclosed.

Examples of compelling reasons to outstation a worker at a location where the county is currently unable to place a worker due to insufficient incremental funding could include: the clinic serves a large number of pregnant women and is located in a portion of the county where there is currently inadequate number of sites other than the county welfare offices for the client to apply for Medi-Cal; or, that there currently exists in the county a high infant mortality rate for a particular group, which potentially could be reduced by having an EW outstationed at the clinic; or, a county without any type of an outstationing program may determine there is a need for such a program.

Reminder Regarding Reporting Requirements

It continues to be mandatory that counties submit quarterly statistical reports on their outstationing activities. The reports are an important part of the outstationing program. It also continues to be necessary to maintain and report Perinatal and OBRA '90 statistics separately. Enclosed are the copies of the reporting forms.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for your excellent cooperation and hard work in implementing the outstationing provisions of OBRA '90 legislation and in maintaining a successful Perinatal outstationing program.

This successful effort has resulted in significantly larger number of pregnant women and children having eligibility determined more promptly and thus allowing earlier access to prenatal and medical care.

If you have any questions about the outstationing of EWs, please contact Ms. Kveta Simon of my staff at (916) 657-2767. If you have any questions concerning incremental funding, please contact Mr. Fred Chow of the County Administrative Expense Unit at (916) 654-0602.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Frank S. Martucci, Chief
Medi-Cal Eligibility Branch